



The Salina Citizen

Winter 2002

Dear Salina Citizens:

The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the Winter 2002 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue not only helps inform you in regard to City projects, but stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

The City Commission and members of the City staff encourage you to ask questions and to make your views known. This is an exciting and challenging time for our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

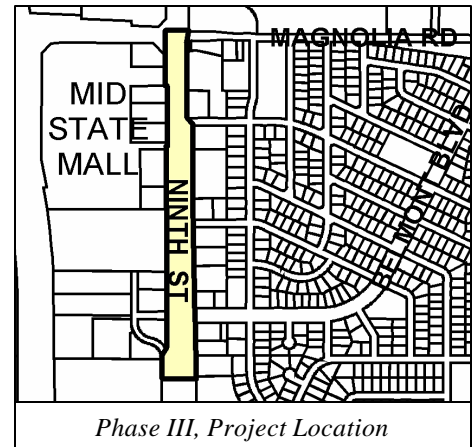
Sincerely,

Salina City Commission

S. NINTH STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT, PHASE III

A major component of the City's 2002 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the third phase of a four-phase program to improve the South Ninth Street Corridor between Cloud Street and Schilling Road. Phase III is scheduled to begin in March 2002 and will be completed in November 2002. This phase will include the 1/2-mile section between Magnolia Road and Belmont Boulevard. The first phase, completed in 1996, included the portion of South Ninth Street between Cloud Street and Otto Avenue. That phase is oftentimes referred to as the "Ninth and Broadway" project due to the radical changes made to that intersection. The second phase, finished in 1998, involved the section between Otto Avenue and Magnolia Road, directly adjacent to the Central Mall. The combined cost of the first two phases is approximately \$4.5 million. The total estimated cost of the 2002, Phase 3 Project is \$2.9 million, to be financed by general obligation bonds with no mill levy tax increase.

The 2002 South Ninth Street Corridor Project will include the total reconstruction of the divided four-lane section of South Ninth Street between Magnolia Road on the north and Belmont Boulevard on the south. The outdated rural highway design will be replaced with an urban parkway design, similar to Phase I and Phase II. The new street will include curb and gutter, raised/landscaped center median, improved storm



drainage systems and traffic enhancements at the intersections. The existing entrance to the Mid State Plaza on Ninth Street will be converted to a four-way intersection with the installation of traffic signals. The Parkway Avenue intersection with Ninth Street will be eliminated and the Key Avenue intersection will be improved. The intersection of Belmont Boulevard and Ninth Street will be improved, including a raised center median on the east leg to improve traffic safety.

Perhaps the greatest challenge on the South Ninth Street Corridor Project is constructing the improvements while still maintaining through traffic and access to adjacent businesses and intersections. Over 18,000 vehicles per day travel on this portion of South Ninth Street, including over 2,000 vehicles through the intersection of Ninth and Magnolia during

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

WE'RE AT YOUR SERVICE

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's Official Municipal Web Site: www.ci.salina.ks.us

Inside:

2 Halloween Safety Firehouse a Huge Success

5 City of Salina Organizational Chart & Job Opportunities

7 Solid Waste Programs & Future Project Updates.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY FIREHOUSE A HUGE SUCCESS

In an effort to promote October as National Fire Prevention Month, the Salina Fire Department hosted its first Halloween Safety Firehouse on October 25th, 26th & 27th. The Halloween House took place at Fire Station #1, located at 222 W. Elm Street. Fire Station #1 was transformed into six separate rooms, all of which presented a fire safety message with a Halloween theme. The themes developed for children under the age of 10 were delivered through a wide variety of characters ranging from "nutty professor" to "dancing pumpkins."

Over the three-day period, the Halloween Fire Safety House had over 2,500 people enjoy the experience. Along with the Halloween House, which was free of charge, visitors en-

joyed free popcorn and entertainment while they waited in line.

Several area businesses and organizations deserve thanks for providing in-kind supplies and assistance to make the Halloween House possible. A special thanks goes to the Salina Home Builders Association for their financial support. Also, over 200 volunteers were utilized to play characters in the house, assist in the construction of the rooms and serve refreshments to the crowd.

Although many fire departments around the State participate in various activities, the Halloween House is the only one of its kind in Kansas. Due to the success of this year's event, the planning for the



People in line for the Halloween House

2002 Halloween House is already underway.

MAPPING THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

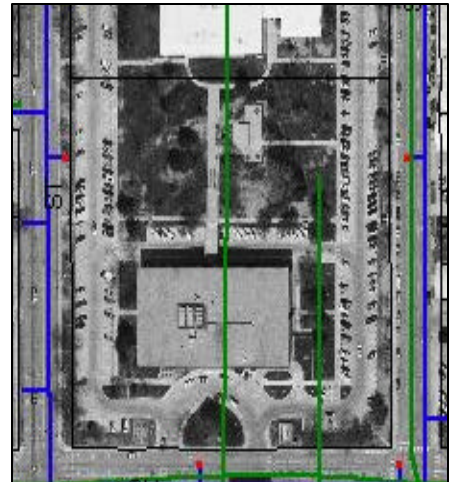
It is not uncommon for facilities such as streets, bridges, sewer lines and water systems to be in service for well over 50 years. It becomes very important, then, to prepare and maintain excellent records and maps of these facilities. Traditionally, that type of record or map was prepared manually and recorded on paper. But just as word processors and the internet have changed the way we communicate, so have computer-aided drafting and geographical information systems changed the way we make and store maps.

A geographical information system (GIS) is a sophisticated computer-based mapping system. Throughout the 1990's, both city and county staffs developed the GIS system for the area. Beginning in 2001, city staff began utilizing this powerful information system in day-to-day operations and services to our citizens. In addition, two other key advancements were made in 2001 with the development of digital orthographic aerial photography and a computerized pavement management

system.

Now, any property in the City can be readily viewed on a computer monitor as an aerial photograph with the simple click of a button. Along with an aerial photograph, several features can be added or layered onto the photo such as streets, sidewalks, water systems, sewer lines, zoning status and other information pertinent to that specific property.

Due to a majority of infrastructure improvements being buried underground, it has always been a difficult challenge to visualize and describe the location of these particular improvements. However, this technology proves that the saying "a picture is worth a thousand words," holds true. The visual images and specific location of infrastructure improvements provides city staff with a tool to relay information via a picture to citizens in a manner that is quick and fairly simple to understand. This allows citi-



Aerial Photo of the City/County Building

zens to better understand the otherwise complex infrastructure issues that may directly affect their lives and property. This technology is used on a daily basis by land developers, city boards and commissions, building officials and a number of other city departments.

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

The City of Salina Human Relations Department and Commission, in partnership with the League of Women Voters, and the Senior Minority Outreach Taskforce will be hosting the **5th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon on Friday, March 1, 2002.**

The presenter and special guest for this event will be Susan Peters, long-time news anchor for KAKE-TV, Channel 10. Ms. Peters will be detailing her years as a member of the news media, and some of her experiences "in the field." Her presentation entitled "What is True Success" promises to offer an insider's view of the inroads women have made in the news media pro-

fession.

Since 1998, the Human Relations Commission has featured women who have made a difference in history. Past speakers have included:

- Angela Bates, President of the Nicodemus Historical Society.
- Tina DelaRosa, Director of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs spoke on the influence women in her family made in her life, lifting her beyond her migrant-worker upbringing to college graduate and leader in the Hispanic Community.
- Marla Matkin, who gave us "Libbie's Story," a portrayal of the wife of General George Armstrong Custer.

- Donna Bivens, Co-Director of the Women's Theological Center in Boston, MA.
- Beverly Nelson, who provided a lighter note with one of her "Herstory" tales.
- Martha L. Ortiz-Sanchez, who, in 2001, discussed what the past century has meant to women politically, personally and professionally.

The 2002 Women's History Luncheon will be held Friday, March 1, 2002 at the Salina Bicentennial Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be made and cost is \$8 per person, lunch included. For more information, please contact the Salina Human Relations Department at (785) 309-5745.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROGRAM

In 1997, the City Commission approved a plan identifying nine interior and perimeter growth areas in the City for the development of neighborhood parks. As development continues, these areas will be addressed for neighborhood park additions. Traditionally, the average bi-annual budget for the Neighborhood Parks Program is \$75,000.

Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of a community's park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. A neighborhood park can be found in a variety of sizes, ranging up to 14 acres. Smaller neighborhood parks will likely target young children and contain playground equipment. The City of Salina currently has thirteen sites classified as neighborhood parks: Centennial, Country Club, Gleniffer School, Hawley, Hawthorne School, Pacific, Woodlawn, Parker, Phillips,

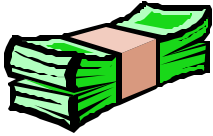
Riverside, Oxbow, Kennedy School and Schilling School. The two newest neighborhood parks, Kennedy and Schilling, were completed in 2000. Features at each include a shelter, playground and landscaping. A soccer field is also located at Kennedy Park.

Currently, Parks and Recreation staff is working on a new neighborhood park located on the Meadowlark school site. With the expansion of Meadowlark, and the associated playground, the City's emphasis is on the passive area in the southwest corner of the site, known as the Jerry Baxa Outdoor Lab. Additional features will include a shelter house for family picnics, new walkways and weather station. A new bridge will replace the existing one and the amphitheater will be rebuilt. Stream bed improvements will also be made, as well as improvements to the small pond located in the park. City staff has worked closely with school offi-



Schilling Neighborhood Park

cials to ensure that the original concept remains, while adding features to enhance neighborhood use. If you have any questions in regards to the Neighborhood Parks Program, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (785) 309-5765.



The 2002 Annual Budget

Setting Public Priorities through the Budget Process



In August, the City Commission established the 2002 budget. The budget is comprised of three distinct parts: an operating budget to account for general operations; a capital budget to fund public improvements and construction; and a debt service budget to fund major capital projects in which municipal bonds are utilized. The annual budgetary process provides Commissioners with an opportunity to evaluate existing programs and services. From this, they can better establish future priorities for service and program levels based on community needs.

Once the scope of services is determined and costs estimated, revenues are evaluated to determine availability from each source (i.e., taxes, fees, or other governmental funding types). If revenue availability does not support the proposed expenditures, the City Commission must make the difficult choice of either increasing revenues or reducing service levels.

Salina begins the budgetary

process by reviewing the current year's services. They look at service quality and efficiency to determine if service levels should increase, decrease, remain the same, or be discontinued. These budget discussions with City Staff begin in April. Individual departmental requests are presented by mid-May, and the next six weeks involve in-depth review of priorities and service alternatives. In early July, the City Manager presents a proposed working budget to the City Commission. The City Commissioners then publicly meet several times to discuss and form the budget for the new year. This entails examination of various service alternatives and a decision regarding the City's direction for the upcoming year. Formal public hearings are held in August, with a final decision made at that time. All meetings and communications with the City Commission are always open to the public.

Total expenditures for 2002 are budgeted to be approximately \$52.0 million. This includes \$39.3 for general operations, \$6.5 million for capi-

tal projects, and \$6.2 for debt retirement. Once again, the City Commission has set a goal of holding down the City property tax mill levy. In fact, Salina continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates of any first class city in Kansas.

The overall goal of the City budget is clear: maintain a high quality of operating services, protect the public, improve our streets and utilities, enhance the quality of community services, and respond attentively to citizen concerns. Clearly, the establishment of the budget is one of the most important items on any Commissioner's agenda. As a result, citizens are always invited and encouraged to participate in the process. This is also a reason the City annually prepares the *Budget-In-Brief* — a short, easy to understand overview of the City budget. Please contact the City Manager's Office at (785) 309-5700 if you have any questions, would like additional information or a copy of the 2002 *Budget-In-Brief*.

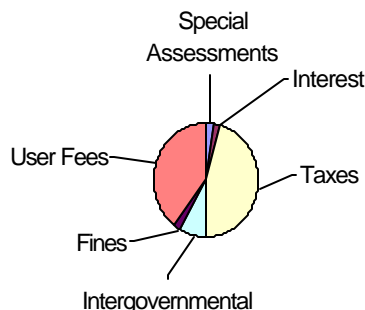
For further information on City finances, please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700 and request a copy of the 2002 *Budget-In-Brief*.

Taxes		
Sales	\$12,291,000	25%
Property	\$ 7,071,218	14%
Franchise	\$ 2,195,000	4%
Vehicle	\$ 906,677	2%
Transient Guest	\$ 775,000	2%
TOTAL TAXES	\$23,238,895	47%

User Fees:		
Water	\$6,465,500	13%
Wastewater	\$5,032,650	10%
Sanitation	\$1,645,000	3%
Solid Waste	\$1,568,500	3%
Bicentennial Center	\$813,000	2%
Golf Course	\$870,500	2%
Recreation	\$431,500	1%
Ambulance	\$575,000	1%
Computer Techn.	\$247,314	1%
Other	\$218,603	0%
TOTAL FEES	\$17,867,567	36%

Miscellaneous:		
Intergovernmental	\$3,547,861	7%
Fines	\$1,000,000	2%
Special Assessments	\$1,220,000	2%
Interest	\$1,026,131	2%
Other	\$2,233,616	4%
TOTAL MISCELL.	\$9,027,608	17%

2001 City Revenues



ANTICIPATED REVENUES		
TOTAL 2002	\$50,134,070	100%

Continued from Page 1 **SOUTH NINTH CORRIDOR PROJECT, PHASE III**

the busiest hour of the day. Similar to the previous phases, this phase will be staged carefully to maintain traffic in the area while allowing space for the contractors to work safely and efficiently. This type of staging is a necessity for local drivers, but it does add time to the total project schedule. City staff will coordinate the construction schedule with directly affected businesses in

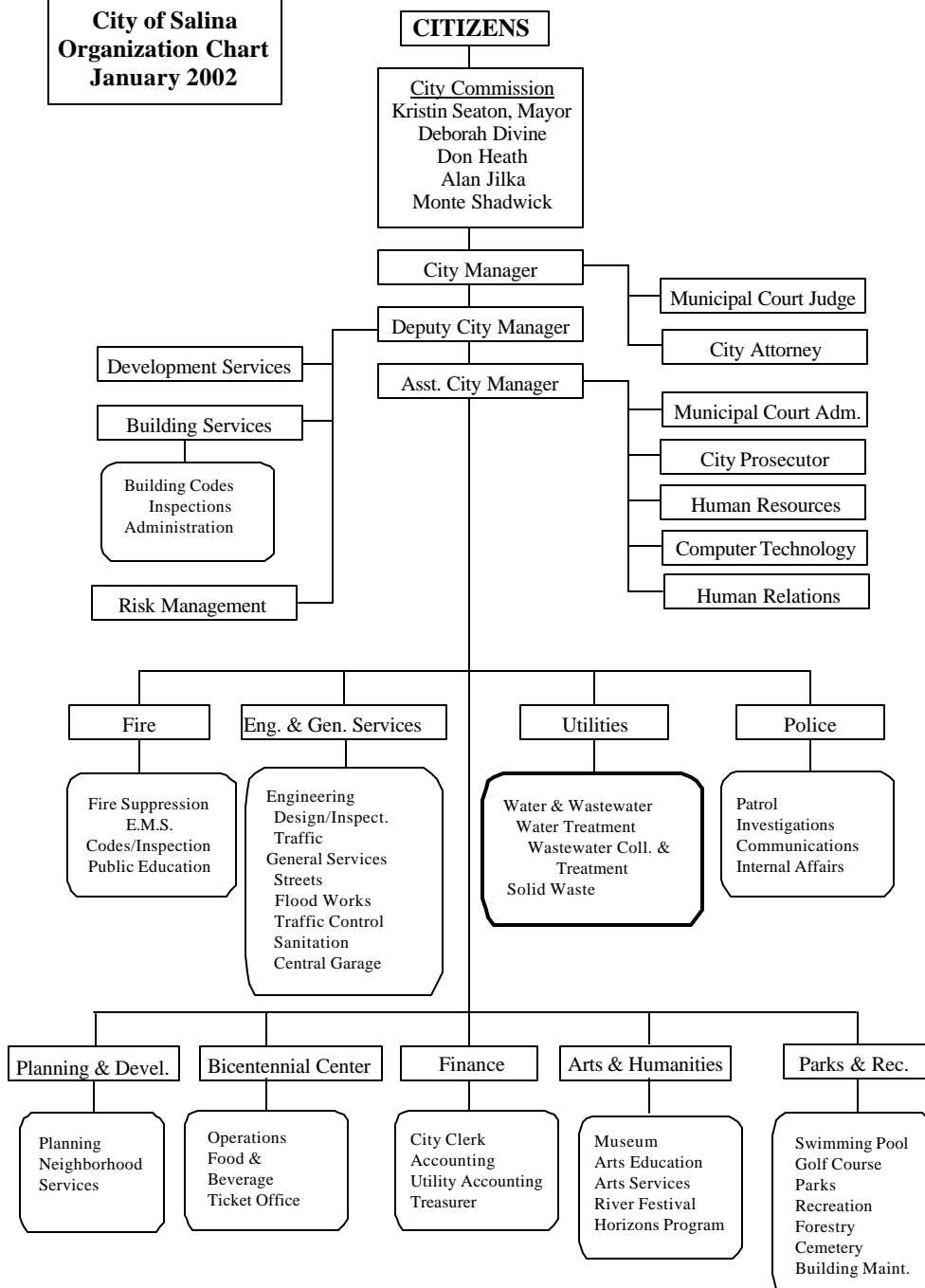
the area to minimize any negative impacts on their operations.

The final phase of the South Ninth Street Corridor Improvements, between Belmont Boulevard and Schilling Road, is under design but not scheduled for construction at this time. Construction will begin on that portion of the project as funds become available, likely in 2005.



Phase II, upon completion in 1998

**City of Salina
Organization Chart
January 2002**



Job Opportunities

City of Salina job vacancies are advertised in the *Salina Journal* weekly, appearing in the Sunday Edition and can be seen daily on the Government Information Channel (20). Depending on the nature of the position, the City may advertise in other publications.

A City of Salina employment application must be completed for each position and a resume may be attached to the application. The City generally establishes application deadlines for all advertised positions. The length of the deadline is usually a minimum of ten (10) days.

Following the closing date, applications are screened by the supervisors from the department that has the vacancy. Candidates are selected for interview and/or testing based on the information provided. After interviews and reference checks are conducted, and approval from the City Manager is received, candidates are provided a conditional employment offer. As a condition of employment, the candidates may have to pass a physical examination to ensure that they can perform the essential functions of the job. All new employees must pass a drug test as a condition of employment. All other remaining candidates are notified by mail of their status.

For more information on City of Salina employment opportunities, please call the Human Resources Department at (785) 309-5710 or (TDD) at (785) 309-5747. The Human Resources Department is located in Room 200, City-County Building, 300 West Ash. The City offers a generous employment package including employer retirement contributions, deferred compensation programs, and health insurance.

CITY PROMOTES TREE PLANTING

In an effort to promote new tree plantings within the City's boundaries, the City of Salina Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Salina Tree Advisory Board, have established a Tree Planting Cost Share Program. Salina's urban forest has been in a state of decline for many years due in part to the effects of Dutch Elm Disease, natural mortality of old, mature trees and environmental impact that man has on the urban environment. Under the Tree Planting Cost Share Program, the City of Salina will provide for half the cost of purchasing a new tree to be planted by the resident on an approved site. These trees can be planted on public or private land. The following stipulations apply to this program:

1. The tree must be a species from the

recommended list, which is available from the City Forester.

2. The site must be approved by the City Forester.
3. Each Landowner is allowed two (2) trees per property.
4. The City will provide up to \$25 per tree.
5. The City will provide up to \$50 per tree for the trees indicated in the Tree Planting Cost Share Program pamphlet by "bold burnt orange" print. These trees do well in Salina, but are seldom planted.
6. Due to limited funding, this program is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In addition to the Cost Share Program, the City also has a "Legacy Tree Fund." This program enables private citizens or groups to donate money for



Thomas Park Tree Farm

the planting of trees in parks or other City property.

If you are interested in participating in either one of these programs or have any questions, please contact the City Forester at (785) 826-7275.

MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING ADDITION IN 2002

As part of the 2002 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the City of Salina will be constructing a new and efficient Municipal Court. The addition will be an expansion of the existing Salina-Saline County Law Enforcement Building on what is now Tenth Street. The current Municipal Court is located on the 2nd floor of the Law Enforcement Center. With over 20,000 cases per year, the current activity volume has outgrown the available space. The primary goal of the project is to provide for a more organized and safe court environment which is much more convenient to the public.

The project includes the construction of a single-story, 5,648 square foot first floor addition with a basement consisting of an additional 5,000 square feet. The building is designed to match existing architectural style and features. With an emphasis on safety, a new parking plan will help eliminate on-street, angled parking, allow for a short-term/drop off area

and create additional accessible parking spaces. The project also includes additional landscaping and a public art element. The new lobby space will be significantly increased in size to eliminate overcrowding—a potentially safety sensitive issue for the public and officials. The project will also provide

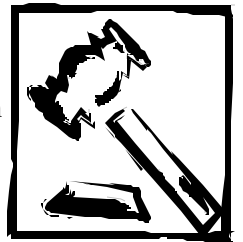
"The project includes constructing a single-story 5,648 square foot first floor with a basement consisting of an additional 5,000 square feet."

separate spaces for police witnesses, public witnesses and police officers; a secure holding area for incarcerated defendants, and private meeting areas for attorney-client conferences. Also, all administrative offices are designed emphasizing a layout that is most effectively suited for the functional activities of the Court.

Furthermore, the project allows for long-term growth in the facility, with the basement effectively

meeting storage space requirements for the Court, including the record retention requirements of the State of Kansas.

Jones-Gillam Architects of Salina has been retained by the City to design and oversee the construction of the facility. A tentative construction timeline has the project beginning in late March 2002 with completion in 8 to 12 months. We think this project will help make a visit to the Court as convenient as possible. If you have any questions regarding to the Municipal Court Addition, please contact the City Manager's Office at 309-5700.



CITY OPERATED SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

In conjunction with the Salina – Saline County Solid Waste Committee, the City of Salina offers a variety of solid waste programs for its residents. These programs provide an important service to our citizens. A brief summary of some the programs that are offered is as follows:

RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTION

The City's Sanitation Collection Service provides curbside collection of trash to over 13,600 residential customers on a weekly basis for \$9.75 per month. In addition, for a one-time fee of \$16, customers can obtain an additional polycart exclusively for their yard waste material. The City Sanita-

tion Division also offers a special pickup service for a rate of \$14 minimum per call, which provides 15 minutes loading time.

FREE YARD WASTE DAYS

The City's free yard waste days have been a big success. In both the spring and fall, the City offers the opportunity for residents to dispose of their yard waste free of charge and to pick up wood chips if they choose to do so. This is done at the East Crawford Recreation Area along Markley Road.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility provides the opportunity for all County residents including Saline, Ellsworth, Ottawa and Lincoln Counties to dispose of household waste

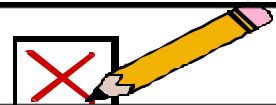
items free of charge. These are items that could cause environmental problems if disposed of in a landfill or directly on the ground. This facility, located at 315 East Elm, is open Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to noon; other drop-off times can be made by appointment.

VENTURE GRANTS

The City offers a Solid Waste Venture Grant Program which helps disposal/recycling operations in the County to reduce the amount of waste going into the Landfill. This program is funded through a \$1.00 per ton tipping fee at the City Landfill. Over \$200,000 in grants have been awarded to local businesses and organizations since 1998.

PROJECT UPDATES

FUTURE ROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS



In recent years great strides have been made in improving the road system in and around the City of Salina including major expansions of Ohio Street, Crawford Street, Ninth Street, intersection improvements and new interchanges on I-135. However, there are several major road enhancement projects that are in the design stages right now and will be under construction within the next 5 years. In conjunction with the Kansas Department of Transportation, the City of Salina has put into place several major projects that will greatly enhance the road system for the City of Salina.

The following is a list of key projects and tentative timeline layout projects that will take place between 2002 and 2005 in Salina. The actual schedule for each project is subject to change based upon many factors.

2002:

1. South Marymount Road Improvements.

2. South Ninth Street Corridor, Phase III, Improvements.

2003:

3. I-135/Water Well Road Interchange.

4. Schilling Road/Centennial Road Improvements.

5. I - 70 Reconstruction (KDOT).

2004:

6. Lakewood (Old Smoky Hill River) Bridge Replacement.

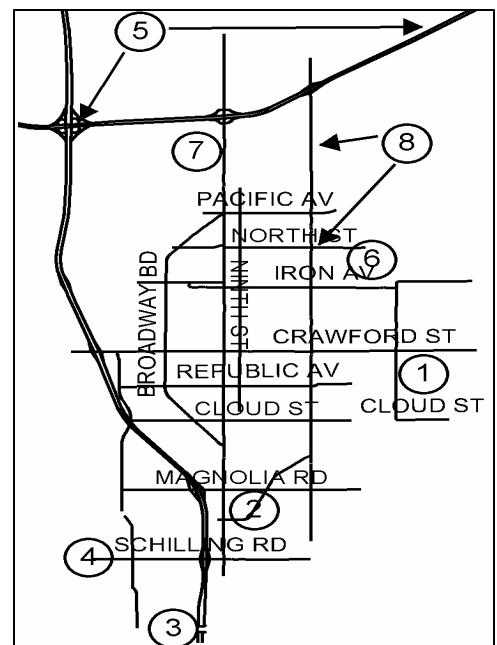
7. North Ninth Street (Mulberry Creek) Bridge Replacement.

2005:

8. North Ohio Street Railroad Overpass.

The City Engineering Division is actively involved at various stages with each of these projects. In all cases, the project design is underway and the funding mechanisms are in place. More information will be provided to interested or affected citizens as the projects advance to the con-

struction stage. If there are questions or concerns regarding any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact the City Engineering Division at (785) 309-5725.



I-135/I-70 DRUG TASK FORCE UPDATE

The ten member I-135/I-70 Drug Task Force (DTF), comprised of officers from the Salina and Abilene Police Departments and the Saline and Dickinson County Sheriff's Offices, is one of the most successful, multi-jurisdictional drug units of its size in the nation. Organized in 1993 to combat the flow of illicit drugs into the Salina area, the DTF represents a model for inter-agency cooperation and cost effective use of limited police personnel and equipment resources.

The primary objective of the unit is to conduct investigations with the purpose of disrupting the importation, manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs. The primary focus of the enforcement effort is directed towards mid-level (wholesale) drug dealers. However, investigations range from arresting small quantity, street level dealers - to large quantity kilogram dealers - and investigations have involved jurisdictions not only across Kansas, but also across the country, from California to Pennsylvania. Since its inception, task force agents have investigated nearly 1,200 drug cases, resulting in more than 1,450 arrests.

Over the last two years, our community has experienced an alarming

increase in the importation, distribution and the manufacturing of methamphetamine (meth). To

illustrate, DTF agents seized a combined total of 16 meth laboratories during 1998 and 1999. During 2000 and 2001, the number of meth lab seizures increased 900%, to 144.

Drug abuse and trafficking are problems that affect everyone. As statistics have shown, these illegal activities dramatically impact the safety and welfare of our citizens and our neighborhoods. Please continue to help law enforcement address these problems by reporting suspected drug activity. By working together in a community partnership, the City of Salina will continue to disrupt the flow of illegal drugs, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all Salinans.



Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Jason Gage, Assistant City Manager, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

For information, contact:

ADA Coordinator

Jason Gage

Assistant City Manager

City of Salina

300 W. Ash

Salina, Kansas 67401

Phone: (785) 309-5710

(TDD) (785) 309-5747

Articles were written by City Staff, with design by Rocky Bumgarner and LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Call the City Manager's Office at 309-5700

PRSR STD
CAR-RT SORT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALINA, KS
Permit No. 400

Residential Patron
Salina, KS 67401

City Commissioners want to hear from you

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736. The Commissioners phone numbers are listed below:

Alan Jilka	827-0002
Kristin Seaton	825-7926
Monte Shadwick	827-6761
Don Heath	827-8142
Deborah Divine	823-3447